

11 July 1946

MEMORANDUM:

E. M. Williams

1. On the 22nd of April 1946 cable was received requesting the vetting as X-2 agent of one Erich WENDER. This initially went to the vetting officer and not to the Austria desk. There was nothing in the cable to indicate any connection with project Symphony - on which no formal information had been received ^{at that time} - except that reference was made to LVX-207.
2. LVX-207 dated 12 April 1946 was received at the Washington Austria desk on 6 May 1946 and was the first formal information that was received actually mentioning project Symphony.
3. LVX-207 was an interrogation report of Erich WENDER @ Carol POPESCU @ Sheliach ERI. WENDER is known to most people ^{in our organization} having even a cursory knowledge of foreign intelligence operations as a very shady character who has been involved in various operations in the Middle East and the Balkans. He had apparently been arrested in Austria ~~by~~ for black-market activities and was about to be sentenced. In the LVX-207, which covers some fourteen mimeographed sheets, WENDER provides information of a nature similar to that known of his operations from our general intelligence information - colored, however, to fit ~~the~~ his own purposes. Even during the time of the Nazi supremacy, WENDER was ~~involved~~ ^{engaged} ~~in~~, or appeared to be ~~involved~~ ^{engaged} in the transportation of Zionist funds, but in such a manner that he himself ~~profited~~ ^{profited} ~~well~~ thereby.

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4. The case officer however made the following comment about this man. ^{"subject"} ~~XXXX~~/seems ~~to~~ to be a quite calm and intelligent person. He gave the impression that he told the truth....." Case officer/^{also} ~~was~~ described WENDER as a "fervent Zionist" and indicated that he planned to avoid ^{current Austrian} WENDER's jail sentence and have him freed for our uses.

5. Meanwhile, the vetting officer here had prepared ^{an adequate} but not extensive ~~Report~~ ^{Summary} 17 May 46 on WENDER's activities and sent it to the field for their information and guidance of the case officer. This was proceeded by a cable from the vetting officer 17 May 1946 (Out 0454) which stated there ^{were} ~~was~~ some inconsistencies in LVX-207 and VIEN 1056 and that a pouch followed.

6. There was a bad time lag between April 22 and May 17 partly due to the fact that Registry sent any cable that had the words "vet" to the vetting officer and also due to the failure of the field to advise that case possibilities were concerned. Subsequently, the case officer upon receipt of X-4623 dated 17 May (vetting officer's summary of WENDER) re-interrogated WENDER on the points ~~XXXXXX~~ raised and ^{prepared} ~~proposed~~ a defence to WENDER's replies (See LVX-375 28 May 46). The case officer again concludes that WENDER is a "sincere Zionist but indicates he believes he will give us intelligence necessitated in Project Symphony." As far as WENDER's own usefulness in intelligence is concerned, some consideration should be given to the case officer's memo 375 Paragraph 8, which states "WENDER goes as far as admitting he knew KLATT ~~XXXXXXXX~~ very well..... He (KLATT) sometimes gave

WENDER a number of reports with which to pad his (WENDER(S)) reports to BAGEL." *Briefly:* Anything WENDER ever turned into us it appears, therefore, *is just as false as to be padded* to be treated from the viewpoint that it too was simply padding.

7. ~~X~~ LSX-280 of 17 June 46 indicates that on 23 May 1946, presumably after receipt of ~~the~~ *warning* cable of 17 May 1946, WENDER was released from jail and placed in our custody. After which he "agreed" to work for us at a salary of 750 shillings, and some rations.

8. Whether he is the type individual or whether ~~xxxxxxxx~~ he even can perform the duties outlined for him in LSX-280 is yet to be determined. If he were simply given a planket brief on all these operations ~~which~~ without having been given specific assignments, he at least knows a great deal of what we want.

9. LSX-230 of 1 May 46 is a report by WENDER on Dr. KASTNER and Eng. BYESZ about Jewish agency personalities.